



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 9184



Offered by:

SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.

REP. LEEPER, 132nd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. **1513**

File No. 851

Cal. No. 445

"AN ACT CONCERNING ASPIRING EDUCATORS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10-145f of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
5 *2025*):

6 (b) (1) The Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board,
7 established pursuant to section 10-150b, as amended by this act, shall
8 develop and adopt minimum content knowledge requirements for the
9 issuance of an endorsement in each certification endorsement area,
10 including the ways in which a person shall demonstrate such minimum
11 content knowledge. The board shall annually review and revise, as
12 necessary, such requirements, provided any such revisions shall be
13 based on emerging research relating to alternative approaches to
14 assessing a person's minimum content knowledge and on a data-driven
15 evaluation of the impact of such requirements on the quality, quantity

16 and demographics of candidates entering the teaching profession. The
17 board may develop guidance to assist in the implementation of the
18 provisions of this section.

19 [(b) (1)] (2) Any person who does not hold a valid certificate pursuant
20 to section 10-145b shall [achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the
21 appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area assessment]
22 satisfy the minimum content knowledge requirements adopted by the
23 Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board pursuant to
24 subdivision (1) of this subsection in the subject area for which such
25 person is seeking an endorsement in order to be eligible for a certificate
26 pursuant to said section. [unless such assessment has not been approved
27 by the State Board of Education at the time of application, in which case
28 the applicant shall not be denied a certificate solely because of the lack
29 of an evaluation on such assessment.]

30 [(2)] (3) Any person applying for an additional certification
31 endorsement shall [achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate
32 State Board of Education approved subject area assessment] satisfy the
33 minimum content knowledge requirements adopted by the Connecticut
34 Educator Preparation and Certification Board pursuant to subdivision
35 (1) of this subsection in the subject area for which such person is seeking
36 an endorsement in order to be eligible for such additional endorsement.
37 [unless such assessment has not been approved by the State Board of
38 Education at the time of application, in which case the applicant shall
39 not be denied the additional endorsement solely because of the lack of
40 an evaluation on such assessment.]

41 [(3)] (4) On and after July 1, 1992, any teacher who held a valid
42 teaching certificate but whose certificate lapsed and who had completed
43 all requirements for the issuance of a new certificate pursuant to section
44 10-145b, except for filing an application for such certificate, prior to the
45 date on which the lapse occurred, may file, within one year of the date
46 on which the lapse occurred, an application with the Commissioner of
47 Education for the issuance of such certificate. Upon the filing of such an
48 application, the commissioner may grant such certificate and such

49 certificate shall be retroactive to the date on which the lapse occurred,
50 provided the commissioner finds that the lapse of the certificate
51 occurred as a result of a hardship or extenuating circumstances beyond
52 the control of the applicant. If such teacher has attained tenure and is
53 reemployed by the same board of education in any equivalent unfilled
54 position for which the person is qualified as a result of the issuance of a
55 certificate pursuant to this subdivision, the lapse period shall not
56 constitute a break in employment for such person reemployed and shall
57 be used for the purpose of calculating continuous employment pursuant
58 to section 10-151. If such teacher has not attained tenure, the time
59 unemployed due to the lapse of a certificate shall not be counted toward
60 tenure, except that if such teacher is reemployed by the same board of
61 education as a result of the issuance of a certificate pursuant to this
62 subdivision, such teacher may count the previous continuous
63 employment immediately prior to the lapse towards tenure. Using
64 information provided by the Teachers' Retirement Board, the
65 Department of Education shall annually notify each local or regional
66 board of education of the name of each teacher employed by such board
67 of education whose provisional certificate will expire during the period
68 of twelve months following such notice. Upon receipt of such notice the
69 superintendent of each local and regional board of education shall
70 notify each such teacher in writing, at such teacher's last-known
71 address, that the teacher's provisional certificate will expire.

72 [(4)] (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the
73 contrary, to be eligible for a certificate to teach subjects for which a
74 bachelor's degree is not required, any applicant who is otherwise
75 eligible for certification in such endorsement areas shall be entitled to a
76 certificate without having met the requirements of the competency
77 examination and subject area assessment pursuant to this subsection for
78 a period not to exceed two years, except that for a certificate to teach
79 skilled trades or trade-related or occupational subjects, the
80 commissioner may waive the requirement that the applicant take the
81 competency examination. The commissioner may, upon the showing of
82 good cause, extend the certificate.

83 [(5)] (6) On and after July 1, [2011] 2025, any person applying for a
84 certification in the endorsement area of elementary education shall
85 [achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of
86 Education approved mathematics assessment] satisfy the minimum
87 content knowledge requirements adopted by the Connecticut Educator
88 Preparation and Certification Board pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
89 subsection in the subject area for which such person is seeking an
90 endorsement in order to be eligible for such elementary education
91 endorsement.

92 [(6)] (7) On and after July 1, [2018] 2025, any person who holds an
93 initial [, provisional] educator certificate or a professional educator
94 certificate and [achieves a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate
95 State Board of Education approved subject area assessment] satisfies the
96 minimum content knowledge requirements adopted by the Connecticut
97 Educator Preparation and Certification Board pursuant to subdivision
98 (1) of this subsection in the subject area for which such person is seeking
99 an endorsement shall be issued a cross endorsement in the relevant
100 certification endorsement area corresponding to a [teacher] subject
101 matter shortage area, as [determined] identified by the Commissioner
102 of Education pursuant to section 10-8b, as amended by this act.

103 [(7)] (8) On and after July 1, [2024] 2025, any person who holds an
104 initial educator certificate [, a provisional educator certificate] or a
105 professional educator certificate and [achieves a satisfactory evaluation
106 on the appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area
107 assessment] satisfies the minimum content knowledge requirements
108 adopted by the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification
109 Board pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection in the subject area
110 for which such person is seeking an endorsement shall be issued a cross
111 endorsement in the relevant certification endorsement area. The
112 provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the endorsement areas
113 of special education, teaching English to speakers of other languages,
114 bilingual, remedial reading and remedial language arts or school library
115 media specialist.

116 Sec. 2. Section 10-145l of the general statutes is repealed and the
117 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

118 (a) On and after July 1, [2019] 2025, the State Board of Education shall
119 allow an applicant for certification to teach in a subject matter shortage
120 area, as identified by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to
121 section 10-8b, as amended by this act, or a certified employee seeking to
122 teach in such a subject shortage area to substitute [achievement of a
123 satisfactory score, as determined by the State Board of Education, on any
124 appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area assessment]
125 satisfaction of the minimum content knowledge requirements adopted
126 by the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board
127 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-145f, as
128 amended by this act, for the subject area requirements for certification.
129 [pursuant to section 10-145f.]

130 (b) On and after July 1, [2020] 2025, the State Board of Education shall
131 allow an applicant for certification to teach computer science, or a
132 certified employee seeking to teach computer science, to substitute
133 [achievement of a satisfactory score, as determined by the State Board
134 of Education, on the appropriate State Board of Education approved
135 subject area assessment] satisfaction of the minimum content
136 knowledge requirements adopted by the Connecticut Educator
137 Preparation and Certification Board pursuant to subdivision (1) of
138 subsection (b) of section 10-145f, as amended by this act, for the subject
139 area requirements for certification. [pursuant to section 10-145f.]

140 Sec. 3. Section 10-150b of the general statutes is repealed and the
141 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

142 (a) There is established the Connecticut Educator Preparation and
143 Certification Board. The board shall be responsible for modernizing and
144 aligning educator preparation and certification to ensure that policies
145 are optimized to attract and retain effective and diverse professionals
146 for employment in the state's public schools.

147 (b) The board shall develop requirements, standards, guidance and
148 proposals for regulations or legislation relating to educator preparation
149 and certification. Such requirements, standards, guidance and
150 proposals shall reflect the teaching profession and respond to emerging
151 understandings of effective, evidence-based practices and address the
152 following objectives: (1) Building streamlined, flexible pathways in the
153 educator profession that are grounded in a commitment to educator
154 effectiveness, (2) enabling educators to broaden their scope of practice
155 to meet more students' needs, (3) ensuring educator preparation
156 programs are accountable for both the quality training experiences and
157 outcomes for candidates, (4) creating a system to help educators
158 continuously improve their practice that supports and rewards
159 educators who demonstrate mastery, (5) supporting improved data
160 transparency regarding the state's distribution of educators and
161 educator vacancies and accountability for remedying observed
162 inequities, and (6) treating educators as professionals and lifelong
163 learners who need access to high-quality professional learning and
164 mentorships throughout their careers.

165 (c) The board shall consist of the following members:

166 (1) Four public school classroom teachers, who are classroom
167 teachers at the time of their appointment and throughout their term on
168 the board, as follows:

169 (A) Two appointed by the Connecticut Education Association, one of
170 whom is a teacher for students in grades kindergarten to grade six,
171 inclusive, and one of whom is a high school teacher;

172 (B) One appointed by the American Federation of Teachers-
173 Connecticut, one of whom is a special education teacher; and

174 (C) One appointed by the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council.

175 (2) Three representatives from an educator preparation program
176 approved by the State Board of Education, as follows:

177 (A) One appointed by the American Association of Colleges for
178 Teacher Education Connecticut Chapter, who is a representative from
179 an educator preparation program offered by a public institution of
180 higher education;

181 (B) One appointed by the Connecticut Conference of Independent
182 Colleges; and

183 (C) One appointed by the Commissioner of Education, who is a
184 representative of an alternate route to certification program.

185 (3) Three administrators, who are employed by a local or regional
186 board of education, as follows:

187 (A) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Public School
188 Superintendents, who is a superintendent of schools for an urban school
189 district;

190 (B) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Schools, who
191 represents a rural school district; and

192 (C) One appointed by the Connecticut Federation of School
193 Administrators, who represents a suburban school district.

194 (4) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Boards of
195 Education.

196 (5) One appointed by the Connecticut Business and Industry
197 Association, who is a representative from the education and workforce
198 affiliate of the association.

199 (6) A representative from the Increasing Educator Diversity Policy
200 Oversight Council, established pursuant to section 10-156bb, as
201 amended by this act, designated by the council.

202 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

203 (8) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's

204 designee.

205 (9) The superintendent of the Technical Education and Career
206 System, or the superintendent's designee.

207 (d) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than
208 August 1, 2024. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority
209 not later than ten days following such vacancy. Members shall serve
210 three-year terms.

211 (e) The chairperson and vice chairperson of the board shall be elected
212 from among the voting members of the board. The board shall establish
213 bylaws for the operation and management of the board. An employee
214 of the Department of Education shall be designated by the
215 Commissioner of Education to serve as the administrator of the board.

216 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board
217 shall develop an annual report that includes a detailed summary of the
218 substance and disposition of any requirements, standards, guidance
219 and proposals for regulations or legislation developed by the board [or
220 the State Board of Education] pursuant to section 10-150c. The board
221 shall submit such annual report to the joint standing committee of the
222 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
223 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

224 Sec. 4. Section 10-156ii of the general statutes is repealed and the
225 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

226 (a) There is established an aspiring educators [diversity] scholarship
227 program administered by the Department of Education. The program
228 shall provide an annual scholarship to [diverse students] aspiring
229 educators who (1) graduated from a public high school in [an alliance
230 district, as defined in section 10-262u] the state, and (2) are enrolled in a
231 teacher preparation program at any four-year institution of higher
232 education. [A diverse student] An aspiring educator may receive an
233 annual scholarship in an amount up to ten thousand dollars for each
234 year such [diverse student] aspiring educator is enrolled and in good

standing in a teacher preparation program. As used in this section, ["diverse" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-156bb] "aspiring educator" means an individual in a teacher shortage area as identified by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-8b, as amended by this act.

(b) [Not later than January 1, 2023, the] The department shall, in consultation with the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, develop a policy concerning the administration of the scholarship. Such policy shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding (1) any additional eligibility criteria, (2) payment and distribution of the scholarships to [diverse students] aspiring educators through the teacher preparation programs in which they are enrolled, and (3) the notification of students in high school [in alliance districts] of the scholarship program, including the opportunity to apply for a scholarship under the program while enrolled in high school and prior to graduation if such student will be enrolled in a teacher preparation program during the following fall semester at a four-year institution of higher education.

(c) [For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, the] The department shall annually award scholarships in accordance with the provisions of this section and the guidelines developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(d) The Commissioner of Education shall develop scholarship repayment criteria for recipients who (1) are not employed as a certified teacher by a local or regional board of education in the state following graduation from a teacher preparation program, or (2) received a scholarship under this section with the commitment that such recipient would teach in a subject matter shortage area as identified by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-8b, as amended by this act, and are not teaching in such subject matter shortage area. Any amounts repaid to the department shall be deposited in the General Fund.

268 (e) The department may accept gifts, grants and donations, from any
269 source, public or private, for the aspiring educators [diversity]
270 scholarship program.

271 (f) Not later than January 1, [2024] 2027, and annually thereafter, the
272 department shall develop a report that includes annual data on the [race
273 and ethnicity of the diverse] population subgroups of students who
274 receive a scholarship under the program and the teacher preparation
275 program in which they are enrolled. The department shall submit such
276 report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
277 cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the
278 provisions of section 11-4a.

279 Sec. 5. Section 10-8b of the general statutes is repealed and the
280 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

281 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall annually, by December first,
282 [determine] identify the following areas (1) subject [and] matter, (2)
283 geographic, [areas] and (3) population subgroups that are
284 underrepresented in the teaching profession in the state, in which [a
285 teacher shortage exists] teacher shortages exist and shall certify such
286 [shortages] teacher shortage areas to the Connecticut Housing Finance
287 Authority for purposes of section 8-265pp. In [determining] identifying
288 such teacher [shortages] shortage areas, the commissioner shall consider
289 the following: (1) The number of teacher vacancies in a particular subject
290 area or geographic area; (2) the number of new certificates in such areas
291 or population subgroups issued by the Department of Education during
292 the preceding year; [and] (3) the number and types of classes being
293 taught by persons whose training is not specific to the field in which
294 they are teaching; and (4) those subgroups of the population that are
295 underrepresented in the teaching profession in the state using data
296 collected in the state-wide public school information system pursuant
297 to section 10-10a.

298 (b) The Department of Education shall annually, by March first,
299 electronically distribute to the president of every institution of higher

300 education in this state offering a teacher preparatory program
301 information concerning teacher shortage areas, [determined] identified
302 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, for at least the prior five years.

303 Sec. 6. Section 10-146j of the general statutes is repealed and the
304 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

305 (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2024] 2026, and each fiscal year
306 thereafter, the Department of Education shall [establish] administer an
307 educator apprenticeship initiative that enables students enrolled in an
308 educator preparation program, residency program or alternate route to
309 certification program to gain classroom teaching experience while
310 working toward becoming full-time, certified teachers upon successful
311 completion of such programs under the educator apprenticeship
312 initiative. The department shall seek certification from the Labor
313 Department for the educator apprenticeship initiative for purposes of
314 leveraging federal grants and funding.

315 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall develop (1) participation
316 guidelines for those educator preparation programs, residency
317 programs and alternate route to certification programs included under
318 the educator apprenticeship initiative, (2) administration guidelines for
319 the implementation of the educator apprenticeship initiative that are
320 consistent with federal laws and regulations, and (3) compensation
321 levels for students enrolled in such educator preparation programs,
322 residency programs and alternate route to certification programs
323 included under the educator apprenticeship initiative.

324 (c) The Commissioner of Education may permit a person enrolled in
325 a residency program to participate in the educator apprenticeship
326 initiative upon the request of the superintendent in whose school
327 district such person is employed or assigned as part of such residency
328 program. Upon successful completion of such residency program and
329 with the recommendation of such superintendent, the State Board of
330 Education shall issue an initial educator certificate to such person and
331 such person shall not be required to complete the examination

332 requirements set forth in section 10-145f, as amended by this act.

333 Sec. 7. Section 10-156aa of the general statutes is repealed and the
334 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

335 (a) There is established the [Task Force to Diversity the] Aspiring
336 Educator Workforce Task Force to study and develop strategies to
337 increase and improve the recruitment, preparation and retention of
338 [minority teachers, as defined in section 10-155/] aspiring educators, as
339 defined in section 10-156ii, as amended by this act, in public schools in
340 the state. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) an
341 analysis of the causes of [minority teacher] aspiring educator shortages
342 in the state, (2) an examination of current state-wide and school district
343 demographics, and (3) a review of best practices.

344 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

345 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

346 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

347 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
348 Representatives, who is a member of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus
349 of the General Assembly;

350 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

351 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
352 Representatives;

353 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

354 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

355 (8) The chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities,
356 or the chancellor's designee;

357 (9) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,

358 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee;

359 (10) Three appointed by the executive director of the Commission on
360 Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, one of whom has
361 expertise in African American affairs, one of whom has expertise in
362 Latino and Puerto Rican affairs, and one of whom has expertise in Asian
363 Pacific American affairs; and

364 (11) On and after July 1, 2018, one appointed by the chairpersons of
365 the task force.

366 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
367 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
368 of the General Assembly.

369 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
370 thirty days after June 22, 2015, except the member appointed pursuant
371 to subdivision (11) of subsection (b) of this section shall be appointed
372 not later than thirty days after July 1, 2018. Any vacancy shall be filled
373 by the appointing authority.

374 (e) (1) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
375 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
376 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
377 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
378 than sixty days after June 22, 2015.

379 (2) On and after the appointment of the member described in
380 subdivision (11) of subsection (b) of this section, such member shall
381 serve as an additional chairperson of the task force with the same
382 authority and responsibilities as the chairpersons selected pursuant to
383 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

384 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
385 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
386 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

387 (g) Not later than June 30, 2017, the task force shall submit a report
388 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
389 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
390 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

391 (h) The task force shall terminate on [January 1, 2026] July 1, 2030.

392 Sec. 8. Section 10-156bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
393 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

394 There is established an [Increasing Educator Diversity] Aspiring
395 Educator Policy Oversight Council within the Department of Education.
396 The council shall consist of (1) the Commissioner of Education, or the
397 commissioner's designee, (2) two representatives from the [Task Force
398 to Diversify the] Aspiring Educator Workforce Task Force, established
399 pursuant to section 10-156aa, as amended by this act, (3) one
400 representative from each of the exclusive bargaining units for certified
401 employees, chosen pursuant to section 10-153b, (4) the chancellor of the
402 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, or the chancellor's
403 designee, and (5) a representative from an alternate route to certification
404 program, appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The council
405 shall hold quarterly meetings and advise, at least quarterly, the
406 Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, on ways
407 to (A) encourage [diverse] students in middle and secondary school,
408 who are in an area identified by the Commissioner of Education as a
409 teacher shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b, as amended by this act,
410 to attend institutions of higher education and enter teacher preparation
411 programs, (B) recruit [diverse] students attending institutions of higher
412 education, who are in an area identified by the Commissioner of
413 Education as a teacher shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b, as
414 amended by this act, to enroll in teacher preparation programs and
415 pursue teaching careers, (C) recruit and retain [diverse] aspiring
416 educators in Connecticut schools, (D) recruit [diverse] aspiring
417 educators from other states to teach in Connecticut schools, and (E)
418 recruit [diverse] professionals in other fields to enter teaching as
419 aspiring educators. The council shall report, annually, in accordance

420 with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the recommendations given to
421 the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, pursuant to the
422 provisions of this section, to the joint standing committee of the General
423 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education. For
424 purposes of this section, ["diverse" means individuals whose race is
425 defined as other than white, or whose ethnicity is defined as Hispanic
426 or Latino by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by
427 the Bureau of Census of the United States Department of Commerce]
428 "aspiring educator" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-
429 156ii, as amended by this act.

430 Sec. 9. Section 10-156cc of the general statutes is repealed and the
431 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

432 Not later than July 1, [2017] 2026, and annually thereafter, the
433 Department of Education shall submit a report using results-based
434 accountability measures to assess the effectiveness of [minority teacher]
435 aspiring educator recruitment programs in the state to the joint standing
436 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
437 relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the
438 provisions of section 11-4a. Such [minority teacher] aspiring educator
439 recruitment programs shall include, but not be limited to, any program
440 administered by a regional educational service center pursuant to
441 section 10-155l, as amended by this act, [and the minority teacher] the
442 aspiring educator incentive program administered by the Office of
443 Higher Education pursuant to section 10a-168a, as amended by this act,
444 and the maximizing Connecticut's certification, recruitment or
445 residency year program for aspiring educators pursuant to section 10-
446 156gg, as amended by this act. As used in this section, "aspiring
447 educator" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-156ii, as
448 amended by this act.

449 Sec. 10. Section 10-156dd of the general statutes is repealed and the
450 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

451 Not later than January 1, [2017] 2026, and annually thereafter, the

452 Department of Education shall conduct a survey of students
453 participating in [minority teacher] aspiring educator recruitment
454 programs offered by local or regional boards of education, regional
455 educational service centers or at a public institution of higher education
456 in the state. Such survey shall include questions relating to the
457 components and effectiveness of the [minority teacher] aspiring
458 educator recruitment program. The department shall report, annually,
459 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the results and
460 findings of the survey to the joint standing committee of the General
461 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.

462 Sec. 11. Section 10-156ee of the general statutes is repealed and the
463 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

464 Not later than January 1, [2019] 2026, the Department of Education,
465 in consultation with the [Increasing Educator Diversity] Aspiring
466 Educator Policy Oversight Council, established pursuant to section 10-
467 156bb, as amended by this act, shall (1) identify relevant research and
468 successful practices to enhance recruitment of [diverse] aspiring
469 educators throughout the state, (2) identify and establish public, private
470 and philanthropic partnerships to increase recruitment of [diverse]
471 aspiring educators, (3) utilize, monitor and evaluate innovative methods
472 to attract [diverse] aspiring educator candidates to the teaching
473 profession, [particularly in subject] in areas in which a teacher shortage
474 exists, as [determined] identified by the Commissioner of Education
475 pursuant to section 10-8b, as amended by this act, (4) modernize the
476 process for aspiring educators to obtain educator certification under this
477 chapter by eliminating obstacles to certification to increase
478 competitiveness with other states, (5) identify and utilize high-quality,
479 affordable and bias-free educator assessments, (6) adopt cut scores for
480 educator assessments, that do not exceed the multistate cut scores, to
481 increase competitiveness with surrounding states, (7) support new and
482 existing educator preparation programs that commit to enrolling
483 greater numbers of [diverse] aspiring educator candidates in a manner
484 that supports interstate reciprocity, (8) monitor, advise and support, and

485 intervene in when necessary, local and regional boards of education's
486 efforts to prioritize recruitment of [diverse] aspiring educators and
487 develop innovative strategies to attract and retain [diverse] aspiring
488 educators within their districts, (9) (A) [on and after July 1, 2019,]
489 include a question regarding the demographic data of applicants for
490 positions requiring educator certification in the department's annual
491 hiring survey distributed to local and regional boards of education, and
492 (B) not later than July 1, [2020] 2025, and annually thereafter, submit a
493 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the
494 applicant demographic data collected pursuant to subparagraph (A) of
495 this subdivision to the [Task Force to Diversify the] Aspiring Educator
496 Workforce Task Force, established pursuant to section 10-156aa, as
497 amended by this act, and to the joint standing committee of the General
498 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, and (10)
499 not later than July 1, 2022, develop and make available, in consultation
500 with the State Education Resource Center, a video training module for
501 school district personnel involved in or responsible for hiring educators
502 relating to implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring process. For purposes
503 of this section, ["diverse"] "aspiring educator" has the same meaning as
504 provided in section [10-156bb] 10-156ii, as amended by this act.

505 Sec. 12. Section 10-156ff of the general statutes is repealed and the
506 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

507 For the school year commencing July 1, [2020] 2025, and each school
508 year thereafter, the [Increasing Educator Diversity] Aspiring Educator
509 Policy Oversight Council, established pursuant to section 10-156bb, as
510 amended by this act, in consultation with the [Task Force to Diversify
511 the] Aspiring Educator Workforce Task Force, established pursuant to
512 section 10-156aa, as amended by this act, shall develop and implement
513 strategies and utilize existing resources to ensure that at least two
514 hundred fifty new [diverse] aspiring educators seeking positions as
515 teachers and administrators, of which at least thirty per cent are men,
516 are hired and employed by local and regional boards of education each
517 year in the state. As used in this section, ["diverse"] "aspiring educator"

518 has the same meaning as provided in section [10-156bb] 10-156ii, as
519 amended by this act.

520 Sec. 13. Section 10-156gg of the general statutes is repealed and the
521 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

522 (a) As used in this section:

523 (1) ["Minority" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-
524 156bb] "Aspiring educator" has the same meaning as provided in section
525 10-156ii, as amended by this act;

526 [(2) "Minority candidate" means an individual who is a minority and
527 employed by a local or regional board of education as a paraeducator or
528 an associate instructor;]

529 [(3)] (2) "Residency program" means a certification program
530 approved by the State Board of Education that requires participants to
531 complete a residency in which such participants serve (A) in a position
532 otherwise requiring professional certification, and (B) in a full-time
533 position for ten school months at a local or regional board of education
534 in the state under the supervision of (i) a certified administrator or
535 teacher, and (ii) a supervisor from the regional educational service
536 center or private, nonprofit teacher or administrator operating such
537 certification program; and

538 [(4)] (3) "Alliance district" has the same meaning as provided in
539 section 10-262u.

540 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2022] 2026, and each fiscal year
541 thereafter, the Department of Education shall administer the [minority
542 candidate certification, retention or residency year program]
543 maximizing Connecticut's certification, recruitment or residency year
544 program for aspiring educators. Such program shall assist (1) [minority
545 candidates] aspiring educators in enrolling in a residency program for
546 purposes of becoming full-time, certified teachers upon successful
547 completion of such residency program, and (2) local and regional boards

548 of education in hiring and retaining such [minority candidates] aspiring
549 educators.

550 (c) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2023] 2026, and each fiscal
551 year thereafter, each local and regional board of education for an
552 alliance district shall partner with the operator of a residency program
553 for purposes of enrolling [minority candidates] aspiring educators and
554 placing them in such school district as part of such residency program.
555 Following the successful completion of the residency program by [a
556 minority candidate] an aspiring educator, such board may hire such
557 [minority candidate] aspiring educator. Such board may apply to the
558 Commissioner of Education, at such time and in such manner as the
559 commissioner prescribes, to receive a payment, as described in
560 subdivision (2) of this subsection, for any of the costs described in
561 subsection (e) of this section.

562 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2025] 2026, the Commissioner
563 of Education shall withhold from an alliance district, from the funds
564 transferred by the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-
565 262u, an amount equal to ten per cent of any increase in such funds that
566 such alliance district received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021,
567 over the amount of such funds that it received for the fiscal year ending
568 June 30, 2020. The department shall use such funds to make a payment
569 to such alliance district and such alliance district shall expend such
570 payment for any of the costs described in subsection (e) of this section.

571 (d) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2023] 2026, and each fiscal
572 year thereafter, any local or regional board of education, other than a
573 local or regional board of education for an alliance district, may partner
574 with the operator of a residency program for purposes of enrolling
575 [minority candidates] aspiring educators and placing them in such
576 school district as part of such residency program. Following the
577 successful completion of the residency program by [a minority
578 candidate] an aspiring educator, such board may hire such [minority
579 candidate] aspiring educator. Such board may apply to the
580 Commissioner of Education, at such time and in such manner as the

581 commissioner prescribes, to receive a grant for any of the costs described
582 in subsection (e) of this section.

583 (2) The commissioner may, within available appropriations, award a
584 grant to a local or regional board of education described in subdivision
585 (1) of this subsection for any of the costs described in subsection (e) of
586 this section.

587 (e) Any payments made or grants awarded under this section may be
588 used for costs associated with the (1) enrollment of such [minority
589 candidates] aspiring educators in a residency program, (2) certification
590 process for such [minority candidates] aspiring educators, (3) hiring of
591 such [minority candidates] aspiring educators following the successful
592 completion of a residency program, or (4) retention of such [minority
593 candidates] aspiring educators as certified employees of the school
594 district.

595 (f) Any unexpended funds paid or awarded to a local or regional
596 board of education under this section shall not lapse at the end of the
597 fiscal year but shall be available for expenditure during the next fiscal
598 year for purposes of implementing the provisions of this section.

599 (g) The department shall develop guidelines and criteria for the
600 implementation of the [minority candidate certification, retention or
601 residency year] program and administration of funds under this section.

602 Sec. 14. Section 10-156jj of the general statutes is repealed and the
603 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

604 (a) Not later than March 15, [2024] 2026, each local and regional board
605 of education shall submit the [increasing educator diversity] aspiring
606 educator recruitment plan described in subsection (a) of section 10-220,
607 as amended by this act, to the Commissioner of Education for review
608 and approval.

609 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall review each [increasing
610 educator diversity] aspiring educator recruitment plan submitted

611 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The commissioner may
612 approve such plan or may return such plan to the local or regional board
613 of education that submitted such plan with instructions to revise such
614 plan. Not later than May 15, [2024] 2026, any such board shall revise
615 such plan in accordance with such instructions and submit such revised
616 plan to the commissioner for approval.

617 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, [2024] 2026, and each
618 school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall
619 implement the [increasing educator diversity] aspiring educator
620 recruitment plan approved by the commissioner pursuant to subsection
621 (b) of this section. Each such board shall make such plan available on
622 the Internet web site of such board.

623 (d) The Department of Education shall make each [increasing
624 educator diversity] aspiring educator recruitment plan available on the
625 Internet web site of the department.

626 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is
627 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
628 *2025*):

629 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall maintain good
630 public elementary and secondary schools, implement the educational
631 interests of the state, as defined in section 10-4a, and provide such other
632 educational activities as in its judgment will best serve the interests of
633 the school district; provided any board of education may secure such
634 opportunities in another school district in accordance with provisions of
635 the general statutes and shall give all the children of the school district,
636 including children receiving alternative education, as defined in section
637 10-74j, as nearly equal advantages as may be practicable; shall provide
638 an appropriate learning environment for all its students which includes
639 (1) adequate instructional books, supplies, materials, equipment,
640 staffing, facilities and technology, (2) equitable allocation of resources
641 among its schools, (3) proper maintenance of facilities, and (4) a safe
642 school setting; shall, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (f)

643 of this section, maintain records of allegations, investigations and
644 reports that a child has been abused or neglected by a school employee,
645 as defined in section 53a-65, employed by the local or regional board of
646 education; shall have charge of the schools of its respective school
647 district; shall make a continuing study of the need for school facilities
648 and of a long-term school building program and from time to time make
649 recommendations based on such study to the town; shall adopt and
650 implement an indoor air quality program that provides for ongoing
651 maintenance and facility reviews necessary for the maintenance and
652 improvement of the indoor air quality of its facilities; shall adopt and
653 implement a green cleaning program, pursuant to section 10-231g, that
654 provides for the procurement and use of environmentally preferable
655 cleaning products in school buildings and facilities; on and after July 1,
656 2021, and every five years thereafter, shall report to the Commissioner
657 of Administrative Services on the condition of its facilities and the action
658 taken to implement its long-term school building program, indoor air
659 quality program and green cleaning program, which report the
660 Commissioner of Administrative Services shall use to prepare a report
661 every five years that said commissioner shall submit in accordance with
662 section 11-4a to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
663 having cognizance of matters relating to education; shall advise the
664 Commissioner of Administrative Services of the relationship between
665 any individual school building project pursuant to chapter 173 and such
666 long-term school building program; shall have the care, maintenance
667 and operation of buildings, lands, apparatus and other property used
668 for school purposes and at all times shall insure all such buildings and
669 all capital equipment contained therein against loss in an amount not
670 less than eighty per cent of replacement cost; shall determine the
671 number, age and qualifications of the pupils to be admitted into each
672 school; shall develop and implement a written [increasing educator
673 diversity] aspiring educator recruitment plan for purposes of
674 subdivision (3) of section 10-4a; shall employ and dismiss the teachers
675 of the schools of such district subject to the provisions of sections 10-151
676 and 10-158a; shall designate the schools which shall be attended by the
677 various children within the school district; shall make such provisions

678 as will enable each child of school age residing in the district to attend
679 some public day school for the period required by law and provide for
680 the transportation of children wherever transportation is reasonable and
681 desirable, and for such purpose may make contracts covering periods of
682 not more than (A) five years, or (B) ten years if such contract includes
683 transportation provided by at least one zero-emission school bus, as
684 defined in 42 USC 16091(a)(8), as amended from time to time; may
685 provide alternative education, in accordance with the provisions of
686 section 10-74j, or place in another suitable educational program a pupil
687 enrolling in school who is nineteen years of age or older and cannot
688 acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one;
689 may arrange with the board of education of an adjacent town for the
690 instruction therein of such children as can attend school in such adjacent
691 town more conveniently; shall cause each child five years of age and
692 over and under eighteen years of age who is not a high school graduate
693 and is living in the school district to attend school in accordance with
694 the provisions of section 10-184; shall not delegate the authority to
695 schedule interscholastic football games on Thanksgiving Day to any
696 nonprofit organization or other entity that is otherwise responsible for
697 governing interscholastic athletics in this state and shall not adopt a
698 policy or prohibition against the scheduling of an interscholastic football
699 game on Thanksgiving Day; and shall perform all acts required of it by
700 the town or necessary to carry into effect the powers and duties imposed
701 by law.

702 Sec. 16. Section 10-155l of the general statutes is repealed and the
703 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

704 (a) For purposes of this section, ["minority" means individuals whose
705 race is defined as other than white, or whose ethnicity is defined as
706 Hispanic or Latino by the federal Office of Management and Budget for
707 use by the Bureau of Census of the United States Department of
708 Commerce] "aspiring educator" has the same meaning as provided in
709 section 10-156ii, as amended by this act.

710 (b) The Regional Educational Service Center [Minority] Aspiring

711 Educator Recruiting Alliance, in consultation with the Department of
712 Education, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the constituent
713 units of the state system of higher education and the Connecticut
714 Conference of Independent Colleges, shall study methods to (1)
715 encourage [minority] middle and secondary school students who are in
716 an area identified by the Commissioner of Education as a teacher
717 shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b, as amended by this act, to
718 attend institutions of higher education and enter teacher preparation
719 programs, (2) recruit [minority] students attending institutions of higher
720 education, who are in an area identified by the Commissioner of
721 Education as a teacher shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b, as
722 amended by this act, to enroll in teacher preparation programs and
723 pursue teaching careers, and (3) recruit and maintain [minority
724 teachers] aspiring educators in Connecticut schools.

725 (c) Not later than October 1, 2007, the Regional Educational Service
726 Center [Minority] Aspiring Educator Recruiting Alliance, in
727 consultation with the Department of Education, the Board of Regents
728 for Higher Education, the constituent units of the state system of higher
729 education and the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges,
730 shall propose guidelines to the Commissioner of Education and the
731 chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities for pilot
732 programs to recruit and retain minority teachers and may consider, but
733 such consideration need not be limited to, the establishment and
734 operation of the following pilot programs:

735 (1) A fellows program leading to the eligibility for an educator
736 certificate for [minority individuals] aspiring educators who have (A)
737 completed an intensive summer session focusing on classroom
738 management and methodology, (B) received a bachelor's degree from
739 an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for
740 Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally
741 accredited, (C) [achieved a satisfactory score on the examination
742 required pursuant to section 10-145f] satisfied the minimum content
743 knowledge requirements adopted by the Connecticut Educator

744 Preparation and Certification Board pursuant to subdivision (1) of
745 subsection (b) of section 10-145f, as amended by this act, or have had
746 such requirement waived pursuant to said section, and (D) have such
747 other qualifications for the issuance of an educator certificate as are
748 required for individuals participating in the alternate route to
749 certification program under section 10-155d;

750 (2) A competitive grant program to assist local and regional boards
751 of education to form and operate future teachers' clubs as part of the
752 extracurricular activities at middle and high schools under their
753 jurisdiction; and

754 (3) A program to allow [minority] college seniors who are in an area
755 identified by the Commissioner of Education as a teacher shortage area
756 pursuant to section 10-8b, as amended by this act, majoring in subject
757 shortage matter areas pursuant to said section 10-8b, but who are not
758 enrolled in a teacher preparation program to receive up to three credits
759 for working as cadet teachers in a public school and, upon graduation
760 and recommendation by school officials, to allow such cadet teachers to
761 enter a fellows program pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection if
762 such a program is in operation.

763 (d) Not later than January 1, 2008, the Regional Educational Service
764 Center [Minority] Aspiring Educator Recruiting Alliance shall report, in
765 accordance with section 11-4a, on (1) the results of the study pursuant
766 to subsection (b) of this section, (2) the guidelines for pilot programs
767 developed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and (3) the
768 establishment and operation of any pilot program pursuant to
769 subsection (c) of this section to the Department of Education, the Board
770 of Regents for Higher Education and the joint standing committees of
771 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
772 education and higher education.

773 Sec. 17. Section 10a-168a of the general statutes is repealed and the
774 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

775 (a) There is established a Connecticut [minority teacher] aspiring
776 educator incentive program administered by the Office of Higher
777 Education, of which the [minority] aspiring educator loan
778 reimbursement grant program established pursuant to section 10a-168b,
779 as amended by this act, shall be a component part. As used in this
780 section, "aspiring educator" has the same meaning as provided in
781 section 10-156ii, as amended by this act.

782 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide grants
783 to [minority students] aspiring educators (1) in teacher [education]
784 preparation programs for their junior or senior year, or both such years,
785 at any four-year institution of higher education, (2) completing the
786 requirements of such a teacher [education] preparation program as a
787 graduate student, provided such student received a grant pursuant to
788 this section for one year at the undergraduate level, or (3) enrolled in the
789 alternate route to certification program administered through the Office
790 of Higher Education or the Department of Education. No student shall
791 receive a grant under the program for more than two years. Maximum
792 grants shall not exceed five thousand dollars per year. The office shall
793 ensure that at least ten per cent of the grant recipients are minority
794 students who transfer from a Connecticut regional community-technical
795 college.

796 (c) The Office of Higher Education may accept gifts, grants and
797 donations, from any source, public or private, for the Connecticut
798 [minority teacher] aspiring educator incentive program.

799 Sec. 18. Section 10a-168b of the general statutes is repealed and the
800 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

801 (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2020] 2026, and each fiscal year
802 thereafter, the Office of Higher Education, in collaboration with the
803 [Minority Teacher Recruitment] Aspiring Educator Policy Oversight
804 Council, established pursuant to section 10-156bb, as amended by this
805 act, and the [Task Force to Diversify the] Aspiring Educator Workforce
806 Task Force, established pursuant to section 10-156aa, as amended by this

807 act, shall, within available appropriations, administer [a minority] the
808 aspiring educator loan reimbursement grant program for persons who
809 meet the eligibility requirements described in subsection (b) of this
810 section. As used in this section, "aspiring educator" has the same
811 meaning as provided in section 10-156ii, as amended by this act.

812 (b) The program shall provide student loan reimbursement grants to
813 any person who (1) is [defined as a minority pursuant to section 10-155i]
814 an aspiring educator, (2) holds professional certification pursuant to
815 chapter 166, and (3) is employed as an administrator or a teacher by a
816 local or regional board of education.

817 (c) Any person who satisfies the eligibility requirements prescribed
818 in subsection (b) of this section may receive an annual grant for
819 reimbursement of federal or state educational loans (1) in an amount up
820 to ten per cent of such person's federal or state educational loans but
821 that does not exceed five thousand dollars in any year, and (2) for a
822 period not to exceed ten years. Such person shall only be reimbursed for
823 loan payments made while such person is employed by a local or
824 regional board of education.

825 (d) Persons may apply to the Office of Higher Education for grants
826 under this section at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner
827 of Higher Education prescribes.

828 (e) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section
829 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for
830 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

831 (f) The Office of Higher Education may accept gifts, grants and
832 donations, from any source, public or private, for the [minority] aspiring
833 educator loan reimbursement grant program.

834 Sec. 19. Section 10-198b of the general statutes is repealed and the
835 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

836 The State Board of Education shall define "excused absence",

837 "unexcused absence" and "disciplinary absence" for use by local and
838 regional boards of education for the purposes of carrying out the
839 provisions of section 10-198a, reporting truancy, pursuant to subsection
840 (c) of section 10-220, and calculating the district chronic absenteeism rate
841 and the school chronic absenteeism rate pursuant to section 10-198c. On
842 or before July 1, 2021, the State Board of Education shall amend the
843 definitions of "excused absence" and "unexcused absence" to exclude a
844 student's engagement in (1) virtual classes, (2) virtual meetings, (3)
845 activities on time-logged electronic systems, and (4) the completion and
846 submission of assignments, if such engagement accounts for not less
847 than one-half of the school day during remote learning authorized
848 pursuant to section 10-4w. On or before October 1, 2025, the State Board
849 of Education shall amend the definition of "excused absence" to include
850 a student's religious observation of Three Kings Day, or the Epiphany,
851 on January sixth of each year. As used in this section, "remote learning"
852 means instruction by means of one or more Internet-based software
853 platforms as part of a remote learning model.

854 Sec. 20. Subsection (b) of section 10-222m of the general statutes, as
855 amended by section 63 of public act 23-167, is repealed and the
856 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

857 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and each school year
858 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall establish a
859 school security and safety committee at each school under the
860 jurisdiction of such board. The school security and safety committee
861 shall be responsible for assisting in the development of the school
862 security and safety plan for the school and administering such plan.
863 Such school security and safety committee shall consist of a local police
864 officer, a local first responder, a teacher and an administrator employed
865 at the school, a mental health professional, as defined in section 10-76t,
866 a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the school, an individual
867 responsible for the administration or provision of special education at
868 the school, and any other person the board of education deems
869 necessary. Any parent or guardian serving as a member of a school

870 security and safety committee shall not have access to information
871 reported to such committee that would result in a violation of the Family
872 Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC 1232g, as amended
873 from time to time.

874 Sec. 21. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of
875 the general statutes or any public or special act, any regional board of
876 education that (1) has been dissolved pursuant to section 10-46a of the
877 general statutes, and (2) for which the regional school district of such
878 regional board of education had a total of three member towns, each
879 with a population, as defined in subdivision (27) of section 10-262f of
880 the general statutes, of at least one thousand and not more than four
881 thousand, and a combined total population for such member towns of
882 at least six thousand, but fewer than ten thousand, the Auditors of
883 Public Accounts shall conduct an audit of the financial operations of
884 such regional board of education for the school year ending June 30,
885 2024, and for any expenses that may have been incurred by or in the
886 name of such regional board of education thereafter. Not later than
887 October 1, 2026, the Auditors of Public Accounts shall submit such audit
888 report to the chief executive officer of each of the three member towns
889 of such regional board of education.

890 (b) The chief executive officer of each member town of the regional
891 board of education described in subsection (a) of this section is
892 authorized to pay any outstanding expenses owed by such regional
893 board of education, and such expenses shall be allocated to the three
894 member towns in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of
895 subsection (b) of section 10-51 of the general statutes, except the chief
896 executive officers of such three member towns may unanimously agree
897 to divide any such expenses in an alternative manner.

898 Sec. 22. Section 143 of public act 24-151 is repealed and the following
899 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

900 (a) For the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026,
901 the Department of Education shall administer an artificial intelligence

902 education tool pilot program. Under such pilot program, the
903 Commissioner of Education shall award a grant to assist such boards in
904 implementing an existing artificial intelligence tool, selected by the
905 commissioner, that will be used by educators and students for
906 classroom instruction and student learning.

907 (b) The commissioner shall select five local or regional boards of
908 education to participate in the pilot program, provided such
909 participation includes at least one rural school district, one suburban
910 school district and one urban school district and reflects the racial and
911 ethnic diversity of the state. The commissioner and each such
912 participating board of education shall jointly select the grade level in
913 which such artificial intelligence tool will be implemented in the school
914 district, provided such grade level is grade seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven
915 or twelve.

916 (c) Such artificial intelligence tool shall comply with the laws
917 governing the use of artificial intelligence and the protection of student
918 data and privacy, including, but not limited to, the Family Educational
919 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC 1232g, as amended from time to
920 time, and sections 10-234aa to 10-234gg, inclusive, of the general
921 statutes.

922 (d) As used in this section, "artificial intelligence" means any
923 technology, including, but not limited to, machine learning that uses
924 data to train an algorithm or predictive model for the purpose of
925 enabling a computer system or service to autonomously perform any
926 task, including, but not limited to, visual perception, language
927 processing or speech recognition, that is normally associated with
928 human intelligence or perception."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-145f(b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-145l
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-150b

Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-156ii
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-8b
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-146j
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-156aa
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-156bb
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-156cc
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-156dd
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-156ee
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-156ff
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-156gg
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-156jj
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-220(a)
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-155l
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-168a
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-168b
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-198b
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-222m(b)
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	PA 24-151, Sec. 143